United Nations

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

17 January-24 March, 22 May-7 July and 7 August-22 September 2000

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-fifth session
Supplement No. 27 (A/55/27)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly its annual report on its 2000 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. 2000 Session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 17 January to 24 March, 22 May to 7 July and 7 August to 22 September 2000. During this period, the Conference held 25 formal plenary meetings, at which member States as well as non-member States invited to participate in the discussions outlined their views and recommendations on the various questions before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 7 informal meetings on its agenda, programme of work, organization and procedures, as well as on items of its agenda and other matters.

4. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, representatives of the following member States assumed successively the Presidency of the Conference: Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil and Bulgaria

B. Participants in the Work of the Conference

5. The representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe participated as Member States in the work of the Conference.

C. Agenda and Programme of Work for the 2000 Session

6. At the 837th plenary meeting on 18 January 2000, the Conference adopted its agenda for the 2000 session in conformity with the rules of procedure. The agenda (CD/1603) reads as follows:

"Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and pending the conclusion of its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 2000 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.

3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. Transparency in armaments.

8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

7. After the adoption of the agenda, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as the President of the Conference, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda".

8. During the annual session, successive Presidents of the Conference conducted intensive consultations with a view to reaching consensus on the programme of work. Their proposals, either formal or informal, were considered during those consultations. The Conference did not, however, agree on the programme of work and did not re-establish or establish any mechanism on any of its specific agenda items during the 2000 session.

9. In addition to the official documents listed below, some informal proposals related to the programme of work were also put forward by the Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament.

10. The Conference had before it the following official documents:

(a) CD/1620, dated 29 June 2000, entitled "Proposal by the President on the Programme of Work for the 2000 session of the Conference on Disarmament";

(b) CD/1624, dated 24 August 2000, entitled "Proposal by the President on the Programme of Work for the 2000 session of the Conference on Disarmament".

11. Also, during plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations and groups of delegations expressed their views on this issue. These are duly reflected in plenary records.

D. Attendance and Participation of States not Members of the Conference

12. In conformity with rule 32 of the rules of procedure, the States not members of the Conference listed under the following paragraph attended its plenary meetings.

13. The Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from 41 States not members of the Conference. In accordance with the rules of procedure and its decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036), the Conference invited the following non-member States to participate in its work: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, San

Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Sudan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay and Zambia.

E. Expansion of the Membership of the Conference

14. The importance of the expansion of the membership of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings.

15. Requests for membership had been received, since 1982, from the following 21 non-members, in chronological order: Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Armenia, Thailand, Georgia and Jordan.

F. Review of the Agenda of the Conference

16. The importance of the review of the agenda of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings.

G. Improved and Effective Functioning of the Conference

17. The importance of the improved and effective functioning of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings.

H. Communications from Non-Governmental Organizations

18. In accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure, a list of all communications from non-governmental organizations and persons was circulated to the Conference (document CD/NGC/34).

III. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE DURING ITS 2000 SESSION

19. The Conference had before it a letter dated 14 January 2000 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations (CD/1602) transmitting all the resolutions dealing with or related to disarmament and international security adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session in 1999, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament:

54/44 "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 2 and 5)

54/52 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" (operative paras. 2, 4 and 5)

54/53 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (operative paras. 5, 6 and 8)

55/54 C "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes" (operative paras. 1, 4 and 5)

54/54 D "Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons" (operative para. 4(b))

54/54 G "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda" (operative paras. 12 and 13)

54/54 M "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" (operative para. 2)

54/54 N "Regional disarmament" (operative para. 1)

54/54 O "Transparency in armaments"(operative para. 6)

54/54 P "Nuclear disarmament" (operative paras. 9, 10 and 11)

54/55 D "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

54/56 A "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (operative para. 4)

54/56 B "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8)

20. At its 837th plenary meeting on 18 January 2000 the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General conveyed to the Conference a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the opening of the 2000 session (CD/PV.837).

A. Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament

21. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item, including on nuclear disarmament and on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

22. In addition to the documents listed in paragraph 10 above, the following documents dealing with this item were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1609, dated 24 March 2000, entitled "Resolution on nuclear disarmament adopted by the New Zealand Parliament, 23 February 2000", submitted by the delegation of New Zealand;

(b) CD/1614, dated 25 May 2000, entitled "Letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting, on behalf of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden, a portion of the text adopted by consensus by the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, regarding practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty".

B. Prevention of Nuclear War, including all Related Matters

23. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, and these are recorded in plenary records, previous annual reports of the Conference (in particular paragraphs 62-71 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/47/27)), related official documents and working papers.

C. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

24. In addition to the documents listed in paragraph 10 above, the following document dealing with this item was submitted to the Conference:

CD/1606, dated 9 February 2000, entitled "Letter dated 9 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of China to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting a working paper entitled "China's position on and suggestions for ways to address the issue of prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament".

25. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

D. Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons

26. Although no new documents were submitted to the Conference specifically under the agenda item during the 2000 session, the documents listed in paragraph 10 above dealt, inter alia, with this item.

27. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

E. New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons; Radiological Weapons

28. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, and these are recorded in plenary records, previous annual reports of the Conference (in particular paragraphs 79-82 of the 1992 report of the Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/47/27)), related official documents and working papers.

F. Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament

29. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, and these are recorded in plenary records, previous annual reports of the Conference (in particular paragraphs 83-89 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/47/27)), related official documents and working papers.

30. During plenary meetings of the Conference, a number of delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the issue of anti-personnel landmines, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

31. In addition to the documents listed in paragraph 10 above, the following document dealing with the issue of anti-personnel landmines was submitted to the Conference:

CD/1608, dated 15 March 2000, entitled "Letter dated 14 March 2000 from the Charge d'Affaires, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting information about the International Workshop on Humanitarian De-Mining and Mine Stockpile Elimination, which was held in Minsk on 6 and 7 March 2000".

G. Transparency in Armaments

32. Although no new documents were submitted to the Conference specifically under the agenda item during the 2000 session, the documents listed in paragraph 10 above dealt, inter alia, with this item.

33. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

H. Consideration of Other Areas Dealing with the Cessation of the Arms Race and Disarmament and Other Relevant Measures

34. During its 2000 session, the Conference also had before it the following documents:

(a) CD/1596, dated 29 September 1999, entitled "Note verbale dated 16 September 1999 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia";

(b) CD/1597, dated 26 October 1999, entitled "Letter dated 8 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement made by Mr. V.O. Rakhmanin, Director of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation";

(c) CD/1598, dated 1 November 1999, entitled "Note verbale dated 28 October 1999 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement made by a Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 14 October 1999";

(d) CD/1599, dated 4 November 1999, entitled "Letter dated 3 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement made by an official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry";

(e) CD/1600, dated 29 November 1999, entitled "Letter dated 26 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement made by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the Russian Federation on 23 November 1999 in connection with the submission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, signed by Russia on 24 September 1996, to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for ratification";

(f) CD/1601, dated 10 January 2000, entitled "Letter dated 13 December 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Peru addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a text entitled "Lima Calling" adopted by the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) during the Sixteenth Regular Session of the General Conference of the Agency, held in Lima, Peru, on 30 November and 1 December 1999";

(g) CD/1604, dated 24 January 2000, entitled "Letter dated 14 January 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Norway addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the English summary of a Government Report on Exports of Defence Materiel from Norway in 1998";

(h) CD/1605, dated 27 January 2000, entitled "Letter dated 26 January 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a joint statement made by President Jiang Zemin and President Boris Yeltsin on 10 December 1999";

(i) CD/1607, dated 15 March 2000, entitled "Letter dated 15 February 2000 from the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Norway addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the Elements of a Common Understanding from the Second Oslo Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Oslo, Norway, on 6 and 7 December 1999";

(j) CD/1610, dated 29 March 2000, entitled "Letter dated 23 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the law of Mongolia on "The nuclear-weapon-free-status" and the Parliamentary Resolution on this subject adopted by the Parliament of Mongolia on 3 February 2000";

(k) CD/1611, dated 25 April 2000, entitled "Letter dated 20 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the

Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of a statement made on 14 April 2000 by Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, Acting President of the Russian Federation, in connection with the ratification by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the START-II Treaty and of the package of 1997 Agreements on Anti-Missile Defence";

(l) CD/1612, dated 26 April 2000, entitled "Letter dated 25 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of a statement made on 21 April 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation";

(m) CD/1613, dated 23 May 2000, entitled "Letter dated 22 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of a statement made on 18 May 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the completion of the process of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty by the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation";

(n) CD/1615, dated 25 May 2000, entitled "Letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of a statement made by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on the outcome of the Sixth Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, held in New York from 24 April to 20 May 2000".

(o) CD/1616, dated 16 June 2000, entitled "Letter dated 7 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of relevant extracts on disarmament and international security issues from the Final Document of the XIIIth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held on 8/9 April 2000 in Cartagena, Colombia";

(p) CD/1617, dated 21 June 2000, entitled "Letter dated 19 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the Russian and English language texts of three documents issued at the recent meeting of

the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America in Moscow";

(q) CD/1618, dated 22 June 2000, entitled "Letter dated 21 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the paragraphs relating to disarmament contained in the document entitled: 'Cartagena de Indias Declaration Rio Group 2000: Commitment for the Millennium', adopted at the Fourteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held on 15 and 16 June 2000";

(r) CD/1619, dated 27 June 2000, entitled "Letter dated 22 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of a statement made on 17 June 2000 by Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the signing of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Biological Weapons Convention";

(s) CD/1621, dated 6 July 2000, entitled "Operation Mouflon: the Destruction of the South African National Defence Force's (SANDF) Redundant Stockpile of Small Arms and Spare Parts", submitted by the delegation of South Africa;

(t) CD/1622, dated 4 August 2000, entitled "Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of China to the Conference on Disarmament and the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the Chinese and Russian texts of the Joint Statement made by the Presidents of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on 18 July 2000 concerning anti-missile defence";

(u) CD/1623, dated 8 August 2000, entitled "Letter dated 4 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the Kazakh-United States calibrating experiment "Omega-3" at the former Semipalatinsk test site";

(v) CD/1625, dated 13 September 2000, entitled "Letter dated 6 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of remarks made by President Clinton on 1 September 2000 at Georgetown University concerning National Missile Defense, as well as a fact sheet on missile defense";

(w) CD/1626, dated 20 September 2000, entitled "Letter dated 19 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the English and Russian texts of the Joint Statement 'Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative' and the Implementation Plan issued at the meeting of the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America in New York on 6 September 2000".

I. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report of the Conference and any other Report as Appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations

35. To promote substantive progress during the 2001 session, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct appropriate consultations during the intersessional period and to make recommendations, if possible, that could help to commence early work on various agenda items, recognizing the support of the Conference for CD/1624 as a basis for further intensified consultations. These consultations shall, inter alia, take into account proposals and views presented and discussions held in the 2000 session.

36. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2001 session would be:

First part: 22 January-30 March 2001

Second part: 14 May-29 June 2001

Third part: 30 July-14 September 2001

37. The annual report to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 21 September 2000, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Petko Draganov
Bulgaria
President of the Conference

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